



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

OCTOBER 1983

** FD '71 ** FD '73 ** FD '75 ** FD '76 ** WAS ** WAC **

Garrett/W6TRW Repeater: 145.32/down 600 (2A-PL) -- UHF: 442.000 in/447.000 out

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Oct. 28, noon	Club Meeting, R4-1041--please note that this is a Friday.
Oct. 29, 8-11 am	Swapmeet.
Nov. 8, after work	Executive Board Meeting; all are welcome.
Nov. 11, 6:30 on	Annual Club Dinner, at Peppy's Restaurant, 2880 West Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance. Dinner will be at 7:30. See EBM minutes for details.
Nov. 26, 8-11 am	Swapmeet.
Nov. 29, noon	Club Meeting.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Phyllis Gilmore, KE6TC

The Club's new Swapmeet Chairman is Jim McWilliams (W6RTG). Let's all thank Jim by giving him the support he needs to keep the Swapmeet the great tradition it has become. By support, I mean bodily assistance. With so many club members, it doesn't take up much of any single person's time to give that support.

We still get mail with the wrong address on it, but we recently came across the winner in the "guess what happens" contest. We received one club member's renewal nine months after he mailed it.

Scope reports that W9FQN has a schematic for an adaptor that will permit use of a regular tape recorder with your Vic-20. You'll have to check the Callbook.

Bill Déws reports that badges are ready for N6IRZ, N6EXQ, KG6BH, KE6NA, K4FPF, KA9IGB, and N6JLS.

We'd like to welcome some new and returning members: Ted Carter (WA6PAS), Joe O'Brien (K6IL), and Steve O'Neal (N6CRR).

You may notice that Crosstalk has a new format this month. This isn't a spurt of creativity on my part. The company's new identity program has now crept up on the SEA member clubs, and we, too, have to conform--at least a little.

As a monthly event, our Swapmeet has now passed its sixth anniversary. While the club held a couple of "one time only" meets before, only the enthusiasm of Bill Schrecengost (KE6LB) made it into the Southland event it is today. Other swapmeets have come and gone, but ours remains a winner. As Bill said in his memo proposing holding the meet monthly, "we have nothing to lose and a lot to gain, including good advertising for our radio club." It seems Bill was more right than he knew. Don't miss the fun; join us on the last Saturday morning of every month (unless otherwise reported in Crosstalk).

We have yet another new club staffer, as George Lee (W6IOW) takes over the club's library from Charley Speelman, who was transferred to Capistrano. If you'd like to know what's available, call George at x56198.

The Club's ham shack is in building 65. It's available at any time to club members who are TRW employees, but you may have to call for a guard to both open the front door and get out the shack's key for you.

FOR SALE: 5 VDC, 5 A power supply, adjustable 4 to 6 VDC. New, very low ripple, excellent for powering computer equipment -- \$35. Bill Schrecengost, x56271.

MEETING MINUTES

Walt Pearson, N6DZM

General Meeting, 27 September 1983

Thirty people attended; president Bill Rodner called the meeting to order and introduced the visitors and guest speaker, Fred Apper (N6DJO). Vice President Fred Garrett presented the financial report, which was approved, as were the prior meeting minutes, printed in the September Crosstalk. Walter Pearson had the User's International ICOM and Kenwood newsletters available for loan.

Activities Chairman Gary Komatsu solicited participants for the antenna party planned for 8 October. New stainless steel guy wires are being purchased for the tower.

The next General Meeting is on Friday, 28 October. The November meeting is on Tuesday, the 29th. The December meeting is on Tuesday the 20th.

Bill Dews is the 1984 Officer Nominations Chairman. All regular members interested in serving should contact Bill as soon as possible.

John Keller is Chairman of the dinner committee. A door prize chairman is still needed.

Fred Apper (N6DJO) showed an ARRL videotape on amateur radio's new frontier, space communications by satellite and Space Shuttle STS-9, with Owen Garriott (W5LFL). Call Westlink for further information: (213) 768-7333 and 465-5550.

The door prizes were two time pens, two mobile antennas, and a multitester.

Executive Board Meeting, 11 October 1983

Attending were Bill Daley, Bill Dews, Connie and Dave Gilmore, Jim Hill, Bill Ivey, John Keller, Gary Komatsu, Walt Pearson, Jim Richardson, and Bill Schrecengost.

In the absence of President Bill Rodner and Vice President Fred Garrett, the meeting was conducted by Past President and current Activity Manager Gary Komatsu. Gary has established the last Tuesday of each month in 1984, except December, for the General Membership Meetings. Gary also stated that the antenna party begun on 8 October will be continued next Saturday. The Yaesu receiver needs repair, but the antenna for the unit will be fixed first.

Dinner Chairman John Keller has reserved Friday, 11 November, at Peppy's Restaurant, 2880 West Sepulveda Blvd. in

Torrance for the annual club dinner. The social hour will be 6:30 to 7:30 pm, with dinner served at 7:30 pm. The cost for members and their wives will be \$8.50 each, while cost for nonmembers will be \$13.00 each. Checks for the dinner should be sent to Fred Garrett at mail station 120-1096.

Membership Chairman Bill Dews reported that the club has two more new members, with the total over 150. Six new badges have been ordered. As Nominations Chairman, Bill has identified the following candidates: Vice President, John Keller; Secretary, Walt Pearson; Treasurer, Paul Herbert; Activities Manager, Gary Komatsu; and Club Station Trustee, Bob Hume. The President slot is still open; members interested in running should call Bill as soon as possible.

SEA Council Representative Bill Ivey submitted the 1984 TRW/ARC budget to the council. He also delivered an AVO on limits of TRW Logo usage. The Crosstalk heading is to be revised accordingly, and other club documents will comply in the future.

Acting Swapmeet Manager Jim Hill stated that the concession is working well. An auction of donated items will be held at the Swapmeet on 29 October. Volunteers are needed to move donations from BVuilding 65 to the swapmeet area on that day.

Technical Chairman Jim Richardson has the club deviation meter and plans to have it available for use at the General Meetings. Jim is working on a system for checking out equipment using the repeater. He also solicits technical items for publication in Crosstalk.

RADIO EQUIPMENT INSURANCE

Bill Schrecengost, KE6LB

A word of caution for amateurs purchasing insurance on your amateur radio equipment. Most of us amateurs have homeowner's insurance, and this insurance covers loss of in-house amateur equipment (less deductible). Homeowner's insurance usually doesn't cover such equipment installed or carried in your automobile. Likewise, most auto insurance policies won't cover ham equipment installed in automobiles. I applied for ARRL-sponsored insurance, and while filling out the forms, found instructions to list all amateur equipment I own, along with serial numbers, original cost, and replacement cost. I called the underwriter on their toll-free number

and asked the representative if they would pay a claim already covered by homeowner's insurance. They said NO. In summary, when you purchase amateur radio equipment insurance, don't double cover it. I just received my ham policy, and it covers only my mobile equipment; the total annual premium is an inexpensive \$17.

HAM RADIO IN PARADISE

John Keller (N6JLS, ex KB6BWW)

Two meters is alive and well in the Hawaiian Islands. Thanks to the efforts of the Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC), the Big Island Amateur Radio Club (BIARC) and KH6BFU (JOHN), the Hawaiian Islands are linked with a superb 2-meter system. One ham in Hilo (Hawaii) can talk to another in Lihue (Kauai), needing only an HT to do so.

The repeater with by far the best coverage is KH6AH, high atop Mount Haleakela on Maui. The highest peaks of Haleakela (House of the Sun) are over 10,000 ft, with few obstructions to interfere with coverage. This repeater can be accessed from the northern areas of the island of Hawaii, most of the island of Maui, the islands of Molokai and Lanai, and from the southern portions of the island of Oahu. I personally worked through this repeater from Hawaii, Molokai, and Maui with my TR-2500 and either a 5/8th telescoping whip or a rubber duckie. This repeater falls under the care of the EARC, which also cares for the Diamond head repeater on Oahu. The Diamond Head repeater has beautiful coverage of Waikiki and Honolulu, and I accessed it from the northeastern end of Molokai.

Through asometimes erratic link between Haleakela and Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii, the area around Hilo is covered by the AH6J repeater. The erratic behavior has nothing to do with equipment, but rather on the weather. With both ends of the 450 Mhz link at typical cloud level, the signal does get scrambled a little. Tests run by BIARC members found that with both ends transmitting with vertical polarization, signals received at Mauna Loa were at times horizontally polarized. A helical antenna helped solve most of the problems, but in heavy weather, things can be unpredictable. My experiences were mixed while in Hilo, as tropical storm Narda threw a bit of nasty weather at us. The ham community was on alert as the Weather Service called a

hurricane watch. Narda headed south instead of north, and the hams that had been up all night got some well deserved sleep.

Off to the north on Kauai, KH6BFU has linked up his open repeater into the state system. It has coverage over the Lihue area, which is the main city on Kauai. There is good coverage on the southern and western portions of Kauai by other repeaters, but KH6BFU is the only repeater on Kauai that is linked to the rest of the statewide system. Coverage on the north and east side of the island is not good, due to the mountains and valleys that characterize the area.

In all, the system is one of the best, but the thing that tells you that you are really in paradise is when you find out that this statewide network has no alligator to catch ragchewers. Almost unbelievably, the system is quiet most of the time. So, if you are planning a trip to the islands in the future, here are the repeater details:

ID	OUT/IN	LOCATION
KH6BFU	147.33/93	Lihue, Kauai
KH6DM	146.88/28	Diamond Head, Oahu
KH6AH	146.94/34	Haleakela, Maui
AH6J	146.82/22	Hilo, Hawaii

If you'd like more information on what's happening on the islands, you can contact the following clubs:

EARC
P. O. Box 30315
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

BIARC
P. O. Box 1938
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

And for you avid DXers, there is a CW beacon on 144.050 MHz beaming its signal toward the mainland—or the really big island. When the weather is right and the tunneling takes place, you should be able to hear it. BIARC members have talked to the mainland direct on 2 meters when conditions are right. If you get over to the islands, you might look up John (KH6BFU), Fran (AH6DZ), Dave (KH6VD), Bob (KH6CIZ), Dean (KH6B), Army (AH6B), Bob (AH6J), Dewey (NH6M), Aron (AK7Q), Frank (KH6BX), and David (WD4SGK)—and tell them Big Woolly Worms sends them a big aloha! Mahalo nui loa!!